UNITED
NATIONS

DP

Executive Board of
the United Nations
Development Programme
and of the United Nations
Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/CP/JOR/5/EXTENSION I
31 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

First regular session 1997
13-17 January 1997, New York
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

COUNTRY COOPERATION FRAMEWORKS AND RELATED MATTERS

EXTENSION OF THE FIFTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR JORDAN

Note by the Administrator

1. The fifth country programme for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan was approved by the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session (1992) for the period January 1992 to December 1996.

2. In 1992, the Government adopted a five-year economic and social development plan covering the period from 1993 to 1997. Work on the next planning framework, which will start in January 1998, has only recently begun and is not expected to be completed until mid-1997. To ensure that the first country cooperation framework (CCF) for Jordan is planned in parallel with and coincides with the next planning period, the Government wishes to extend the current country programme by one year. This decision was also prompted by a desire to harmonize UNDP programming with the programming cycles of the other Joint Consultative Group on Policy agencies, mainly the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), both of which commence in January 1998.

3. Some of the priorities agreed upon at the start of the fifth country programme remain valid, while others have changed, particularly as a result of the Middle East peace process and the growing momentum for regional economic integration. Based on the mid-term review of the fifth country programme, held in September 1995, the focus of UNDP cooperation with Jordan for the remainder of the current programme period has been reoriented to reflect the country's new priorities and the UNDP sustainable human development mandate. The current programme now comprises the following areas of concentration: (a) poverty reduction; (b) governance and public sector reform; (c) strengthening of Jordan's international competitiveness; and (d) environmental protection and natural resource management. It is expected that these priorities will be

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incorporated into the first CCF for Jordan. The CCF will be submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session 1998.

4. Against this background, the Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the fifth country programme for Jordan for a period of one year beginning 1 January 1997.